

10/20/07

To Whom It May Concern:

I personally support streamlining the MMSI system, so that boat operators can easily continue to use their MMSI number when they decide to travel internationally, and privately issued numbers are as trouble-free as those issued by the FCC are. The FCC is after all, the source for all of the numbers issued regardless of where the individual boater obtained the information and number.

I want this problem fixed so that privately issued MMSI numbers are "portable," the same policy granted to cell phone users. As more people retire and decide to go cruising and the system approaches maturity, this problem is very likely to get worse. The time to correct it is now.

Additionally, it is my understanding that the integrity of the U.S. Coast Guard's search and rescue system depends upon boaters properly registering their radios. Any unnecessary problems in doing so will deter people from registering or obtaining a license from the FCC. Since I boat extensively on the Great Lakes and am at risk in that activity, I obtained the MMSI number so that I could be covered as the system came to maturity. It is a long range safety issue for all boaters eventually.

I am a member of BoatUS and I fully support their position on this issues as well as the position taken by the National GMDSS Implementation Task Force and BoatUS

Sincerely,
Lynn Dupuy
41027 Willow Circle
Aurora, Ohio 44202
OH 1300 BT
MMSI # 338014499